

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 VIENTI 04609 251250 Z

47

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 W  
----- 042494

R 261125 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4708  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
AMEMBASSY SAIGON  
USDEL JEC PARIS

S E C R E T VIENTIANE 4609

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, MOPS, PFOR, LA

SUBJECT: LAO PROTOCOL NEGOTIATIONS: SOUVANNA

INFORMS PHOUMI OF RLG' S OPPOSITION TO  
LPF PLAN ON NEUTRALIZATION OF LUANG  
PRABANG AND VIENTIANE

1. WHEN I SAW PRIME MINISTER JUNE 25 I ASKED HIM HOW HIS MEETING WENT WITH PHOUMI LAST SATURDAY. SOUVANNA SAID THAT HE INFORMED PHOUMI THAT RLG COULD NOT ACCEPT STATIONING OF LPF BATTALIONS IN VIENTIANE AND LUANG PRABANG. SOUVANNA TOLD PHOUMI HE COULD AGREE TO " AUGMENTING THE GARRISON GUARDING THE LPF IN VIENTIANE BY ONE OR TWO LPF COMPANIES." THIS AUGMENTATION, IN ADDITION TO STRONG JOINT POLICE FORCES IN THE TWO CITIES, SOUVANNA TOLD PHOUMI, REMAINS RLG POSITION OF ASSURING SECURITY FOR LPF MINISTERS IN COALITION GOVERNMENT.

2. I ASKED PRIME MINISTER WHETHER PHOUMI HAD THREATENED TO LEAVE VIENTIANE SINCE RLG HAD NOT MET LPF DEMAND ON STATIONING OF LPF BATTALIONS IN THE TWO CITIES. SOUVANNA REPLIED THAT " PHOUMI CAN POUND THE TABLE WITH PHENG BUT THIS TACTIC DOESN' T WORK WITH ME." PHOUMI MADE NO REFERENCE IN HIS TALK WITH SOUVANNA TO BREAKING  
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OFF NEGOTIATIONS MERELY BECAUSE RLG HAD NOT ACQUIESCED  
IN LPF DEMAND.

3. COMMENT: I AM SEEING PHENG THIS EVENING TO FIND  
OUT WHETHER THE TWO LAO NEGOTIATORS, HAVING AGREED TO  
DISAGREE ON WAYS OF NEUTRALIZING VIENTIANE AND LUANG  
PRABANG, ARE PROCEEDING TO DISCUSS THE OTHER SUBJECTS  
ON THE AGENDA IN DRAFTING THE  
IMPLEMENTING PROTOCOL. IF THIS IS THE CASE, PHENG  
SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED BECUASE IT WILL PROVE THAT STANDING  
FIRM AGAINST A SPECIFIC LPF DEMAND DOES NOT AUTOMATICALLY  
LEAD TO COLLAPSE OF NEGOTIATIONS, SOMETHING HE FEARED WHICH  
HAS INFLUENCED HIS NEGOTIATING TACTICS.  
DEAN

SECRET

NNNNMAFVVZCZ

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* EXDIS

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* SECRET

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:**  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Draft Date:** 26 JUN 1973  
**DecapTION Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**TAGS:** MOPS, PFOR, PGOV, PINT, LA  
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